

REMARKS**I. Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-7 are all the claims currently pending in the application.

By this Amendment, claim 3 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 1, 4 and 6 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment. Thus, entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

II. Response to Claim Objections and Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1, 2 and 4-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tachibana (U.S. Patent No. 5,488,407, hereafter Tachibana) in view of Ebert et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,126,160, hereafter Ebert). The Applicants traverse the above rejections and objections for the following reasons.

Claim 3 has been canceled rendering objections moot.

Independent claims 1, 4 and 6 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed on June 13, 2005 (i.e., claim 3). Thus, independent claims 1, 4 and 6 are believed to be allowable without further comment. Likewise, dependent claims 2, 5 and 7 are also believed to be allowable based on their respective dependencies from claims 1, 4 and 6.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-5128.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-5128.

Respectfully submitted,
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